

# DAILY MINER

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## 3 THINGS TO DO

# On President's Day

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Other than mattress sales and special deals on new cars, President's Day is probably one of the least celebrated U.S. holidays of the year.

Nobody gets presents, cards, flowers or candy. Dinner is the usual fare.

It started as George Washington's birthday (Feb. 22), and now extends to recognition of all 45 U.S. presidents.

Kids are out of school Monday, and government workers have the day off, but that's no reason to laze around the house.

Here are three fun and educational ways to celebrate President's Day:



### Visit a museum

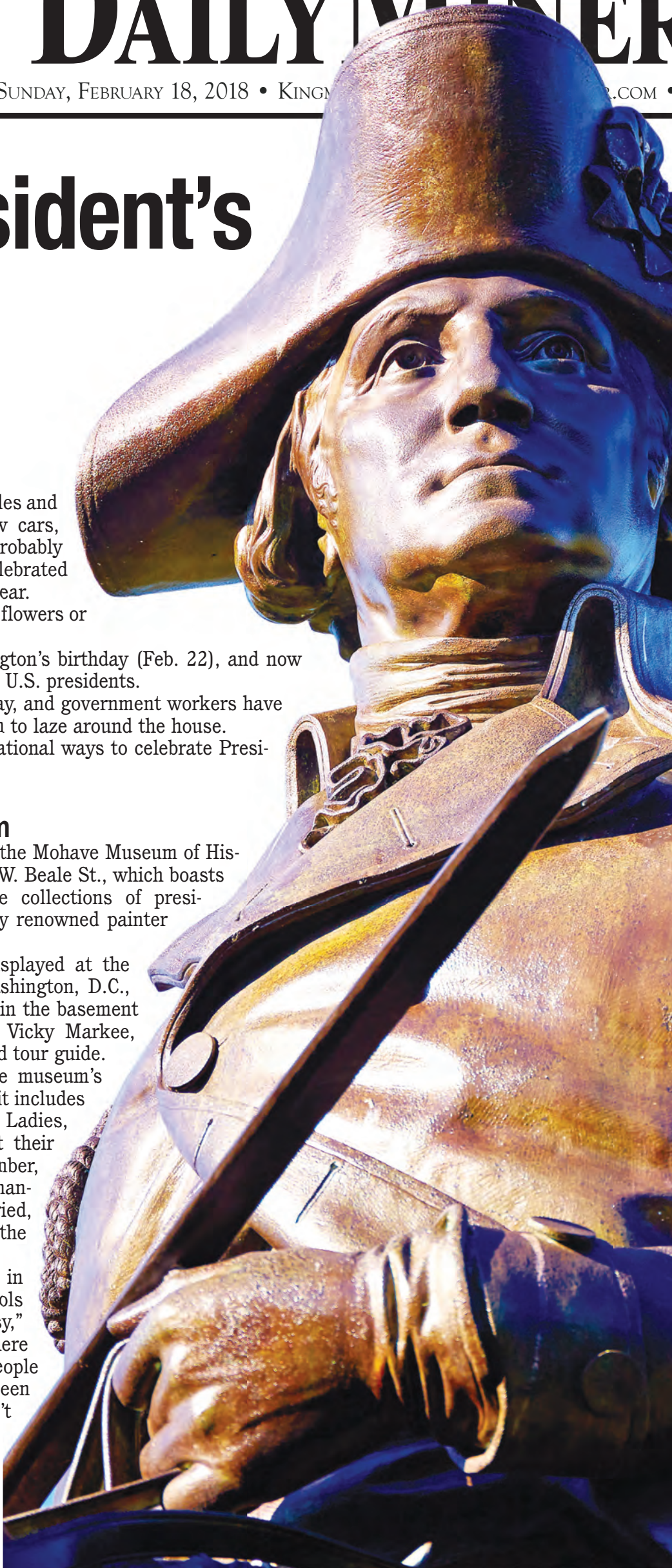
Take the kids to the Mohave Museum of History and Arts, 400 W. Beale St., which boasts one of only three collections of presidential portraits by renowned painter Lawrence Williams.

Another collection is displayed at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and the third is said to be in the basement of a state legislator, said Vicky Markee, museum office manager and tour guide.

What's unique about the museum's presidential gallery is that it includes all the presidents' First Ladies, which in some cases isn't their wife, but a close family member, Markee noted. James Buchanan, for example, never married, so his niece stepped in for the portrait.

"We have students come in all the time, when the schools try to keep the kids busy," Markee said. "It's right here at the door and a lot of people make comments. They've seen the presidents and haven't seen the wives."

See PRESIDENT, 5A



## Death penalty withdrawn in Rector trial

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KINGMAN – The Mohave County Attorney's Office filed a motion Thursday in Superior Court to withdraw its intent to seek the death penalty for accused kidnapper, rapist and murderer Justin James Rector in hopes of moving the case along.

In the court filing, Deputy County Attorney Greg McPhillips said there's "no realistic speedy resolution" for the families of the victims, and the earliest trial date would be 10 years after the charges were brought against the defendant.

Rector, 29, is charged with the first-degree murder of 8-year-old Bella Grogan-Cannella of Bullhead City, whose body was found buried in a shallow grave in September 2014.

See PENALTY, 5A

## Kingman schools security to improve

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KINGMAN – Superintendent Roger Jacks of Kingman Unified School District and Susan Chan, executive director of Kingman Academy of Learning, spoke to the Daily Miner about the security they have in place at their schools and what future security measures they will conduct in the wake of the massacre that took 17 lives in Florida.

KUSD has security personnel on all campuses, security cameras, and police going from one campus to another. Other measures Jacks has told his staff and faculty to take is to keep all doors locked, wear employee badges, and report any suspicious activity. He has asked his students to report any activity that is said on social media.

"We put all of our administration through safety training in the summer with police forces," Jacks said.

KAOL schools have fencing and all doors are locked except the front door, which

See IMPROVE, 5A

## State investigated after school shooting suspect cut himself

JASON DEAREN, ALLEN BREED & TAMARA LUSH  
Associated Press

PARKLAND, Florida (AP) – Florida's child welfare agency investigated the suspect in a school shooting that killed 17 people after he cut himself in a video but found him stable, according to state records.

The Miami Herald obtained records from Florida's Department of Children and Families and reported Saturday that Nikolas Cruz posted a video on the social media network Snapchat showing him cutting his arms in 2016.

The agency was called to investigate. Cruz, then 18, was listed

as an "alleged victim" of medical neglect and inadequate supervision; his adoptive mother, then-68-year-old Lynda Cruz, the "alleged perpetrator."

"Mr. Cruz was on Snapchat cutting both of his arms," the Florida DCF abuse hotline was told in August 2016. "Mr. Cruz has fresh cuts on both his arms. Mr. Cruz stated he plans to go out and buy a gun."

According to the paper, DCF's investigation was completed that Nov. 12. The agency concluded that Cruz had not been mistreated by his mother, was receiving adequate care from a mental health counselor and was attending school.

"Henderson came out and

assessed the (victim and) found him to be stable enough not to be hospitalized," the DCF report said.

Cruz had been diagnosed with autism, a neurological disorder that often leads to social awkwardness and isolation, and attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD.

The documents provide further evidence that Cruz was a troubled teen before being charged with 17 counts of murder in the Wednesday attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

On Friday, President Donald Trump visited Broward Health North Hospital, where he saw two victims

See SUSPECT, 5A



Florida's child welfare agency investigated Nikolas Cruz, who killed 17 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Wednesday, but found him stable, according to state records. (Public Domain)

KUSD disputes claims made by the KEA at Tuesday's school board meeting

LOCAL | 3A



Kentucky teen to be tried as an adult in fatal school shootings

NATIONAL | 8A



Let's play ball: baseball, softball season begins

SPORTS | 1B

TODAY  
HIGH 65 LOW 36

Arizona.....8A  
Classifieds.....3-5B  
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Obituaries.....4A

Opinion.....6A  
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CW

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